

Filed for intro on 01/19/95
Senate Bill _____
By

House Bill No.HR0001
By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor Dr. Robbie Kendall-Melton
upon being named 1994 Professor of the
Year for her efforts in higher education.

WHEREAS, each year the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, after a rigorous selection process, chooses U.S. Professors of the Year to honor those who exemplify extraordinary teaching in higher education; and

WHEREAS, one of the distinguished 1994 Professors of the Year, nominated and chosen by her peers in education, is Dr. Robbie Kendall-Melton of the University of Tennessee, Martin; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kendall-Melton has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to higher education by combining both the art and science of teaching and utilizing her discipline to assist those students who face academic obstacles; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kendall-Melton embarked upon a career in higher education by first obtaining an undergraduate degree in Education and a graduate degree in Special Education from Wayne State University, after which she continued her education by obtaining an Ed.S. in Special Education, also from Wayne State University, and a Ph.D. in Administration and Supervision from the University of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, while obtaining her graduate and post-graduate degrees, Dr. Kendall-Melton worked diligently as a special education teacher in the Detroit Public School System, and then progressed to become Director of Special Services for Hamtramck Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, pursuing her interest in higher education students with special needs, Dr. Kendall-Melton accepted a position as Director of the Special Education Center of Excellence at Tennessee State University and, in 1988, she ascended to the position of Director for the Center of Excellence in Early Childhood Special Education at Winthrop University; and

WHEREAS, our state was fortunate when, in 1990, Dr. Kendall-Melton returned to Tennessee to become an Associate Professor and Assistant Dean of Education at the University of Tennessee, Martin, and she has since earned the distinction of Full Professor; and

WHEREAS, though her varied experience, Dr. Kendall-Melton has become familiar with educational technology and has used this knowledge to become an innovator in the fields of distance learning and interactive video; and

WHEREAS, she has been recruited to share her expertise on national and international levels, giving presentations, publishing articles and text, consulting, and developing technologically advanced curriculums; and

WHEREAS, with exceptional credentials and a genuine commitment to the improvement of others, Dr. Kendall-Melton has been recognized with numerous awards including South Carolina's Outstanding Young American Educator and Outstanding Educator awards and The University of Tennessee National Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Award; and

WHEREAS, in addition, she received the Tennessee Higher Education Commission Service Recognition Award for her tireless work as developer and member of the Minority Mentoring Project, a program assisting minority education students academically, financially, socially, and mentally, and for her work as founder and coordinator of the Open Arms Child Support Center for Homeless Preschoolers, an early childhood intervention center for homeless parents and their children; and

WHEREAS, as an irreplaceable humanitarian and educator, Dr. Kendall-Melton has provided support for many adult students, regardless of race or income, who are considered "at-risk for failure" because of emotional problems, lack of skills, or lack of resources; and

WHEREAS, recruited by students to speak at churches, community events, NAACP functions, and conferences, Dr. Kendall-Melton has served as a trusted liaison between students and faculty, earning student support awards such as the 1993 Alpha Omicron Pi "Teacher of the Year"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kendall-Melton, an educator, public servant, and exemplary citizen, is most deserving of her recent award, the 1994 Carnegie Foundation Professor of the Year, as she is a voice of integrity in higher education; and

WHEREAS, she is also deserving of the commendation of this General Assembly for her unyielding patience, care, and dedication to the education of our citizens and future leaders; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That this General Assembly recognize and honor Dr. Robbie Kendall-Melton for her many educational accomplishments, including her most recent distinction as the 1994 Carnegie Foundation Professor of the Year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Dr. Kendall-Melton with this final resolving clause deleted.